

Phonics vocabulary-Definitions

It is important to teach children to read using the language of phonics. Children understand this vocabulary as a learning aid. Here is a list of the phonics vocabulary your child will hear and use in school.

- **Phoneme** - the smallest unit of sound in a word. It can be used to describe the sound an individual letter or group of letters makes. It is accepted that we use around 44 phonemes.
- **Grapheme** - the visual representation of a phoneme. It may consist of a single letter or a sequence of letters.
- **Grapheme Phoneme Correspondence (GPC)** – how a grapheme matches to a phoneme and vice-versa.
- **Adjacent consonants** – if two consonants next to each other, such as cr, are seen as two separate sounds c-r.
- **Digraph** - a phoneme represented by two letters, such as ‘ar’ in card.
- **Consonant digraph** – a phoneme represented by two consonants, such as sh, ch, th, ng.
- **Vowel digraph** - the grapheme for the long vowel sounds made with 2 vowels, such as ee in sheep.
- **Split digraph** – a digraph that has been split by a consonant, such as ‘bike’ and ‘note’.
- **Trigraph** - a phoneme that is represented by three letters, such as ‘dge’ in judge.
- **Blending** - putting phonemes together quickly in order to read words.
- **Decode**- looking at the word, breaking it into phonemes and then blending them to read.
- **Segmenting** - breaking words down into their separate phonemes to write words.
- **Encoding**-recalling the letter sounds and shapes to form words when writing.
- **Key word** – common words children need to read.
- **Tricky word/exception word** - key words that are not entirely decodable as they do not conform to regular phonics patterns.
- **Phonetically plausible** – when an incorrect choice of possible graphemes for a particular phoneme is made, such as hoam instead of home. Use the **ask the question** strategy so they can demonstrate their understanding of possible graphemes.
- **Letters and Sounds** – a phonics programme based on 6 progressive phases of learning developed by DfES (2007)
- **Phonics Screening Check** – a National test for all Year 1 children that involves reading 40 words (20 real words and 20 pseudo words) covering phonemes from phases 2, 3, 4 & 5.
- **Ascender**- Tall letters/graphemes like h,b,l,d etc
- **Descender** -Letters/graphemes that go below the line g,p,y,f.
- **Cvc/cvcc**- C stands for consonant and v stands for vowel A cvc word is a word made up of a consonant phoneme, vowel phoneme and consonant phoneme e.g., d-o-g or ch-ee-p as the ch is a consonant digraph and the ee is a vowel digraph.